



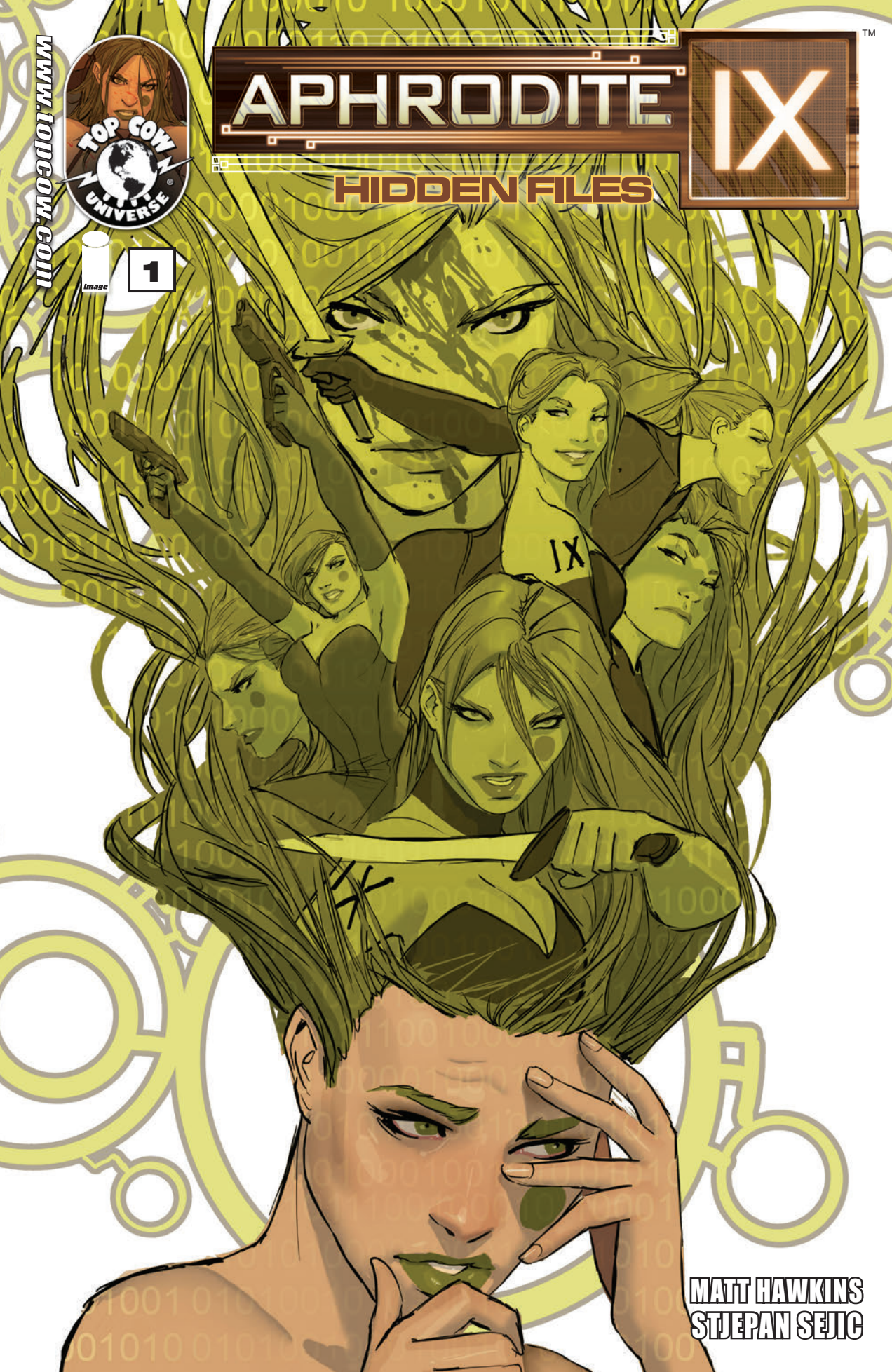
APHRODITE

IX

HIDDEN FILES

1

Image



MATT HAWKINS
STJEPAN SEJIC

APHRODITE

HIDDEN FILES



TM

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THE CHAIRWOMAN ACTIVATED
YOU TO HELP MANAGE THE SITUATION
WITH APHRODITE IX.

I KNOW AND I'M
HAPPY TO BE ONLINE, I'M JUST
UNCLEAR WHY WE'RE HELPING
HER FIND HER HANDLER.



THIS
BURCH MAN IS OF NO
REAL CONSEQUENCE. A
RELIC OF A FORGOTTEN
TIME; HE WAS KEPT IN
PLACE MERELY AS A
FAILSAFE.

THE INFORMATION I
HAVE IN THE SANCTUARY VI
DATA FILES IS INCOMPLETE.
I'D LIKE TO UNDERSTAND
MORE OF WHAT'S
GOING ON.

THAT COULD BE
DANGEROUS...LET'S
REVIEW WHAT YOU
KNOW.



THE TIMELINE IS OF
PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE.
STRICT ADHERENCE IS
NECESSARY TO AVOID
UNWANTED DERIVATION.

1971 FIRST OUTLINE OF
PROTOCOL DRAFTED

1980 PHASE 1 INITIATED
APHRODITE I

1992 APHRODITE II

1998 APHRODITE III
GENERATION PROTOTYPES
ENGINEERED FOR ALTERNATE
DESIGNATIONS



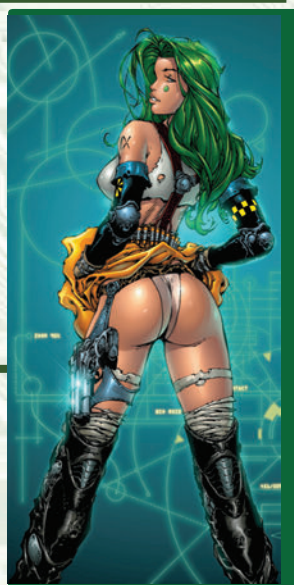
2007 APHRODITE IV
FIRST OF THE MASS PRODUCED
PURE ANDROID LINE.
PROTOTYPE CARRIED THE
COIN OF SOLOMON IMBEDDED
IN HER CHEST CAVITY.

2011 APHRODITE V
FIRST SUCCESSFUL
BIOSYNTHETIC HYBRID
ORGANISM (NEW SPECIES).
SHE SERVED AS BODYGUARD
TO CARIN TAYLOR/VELOCITY
(ORIGINALLY SERIES IV)
THE DAUGHTER TO
CHAIRWOMAN FRANCESCA
TAYLOR.



2014 PHASE 2
INITIATED

2078 PHASE 3 INITIATED
APHRODITE IX LIVE NATURAL BIRTH
FIRST TECHNO-BIOLOGICAL
SINGULARITY WITH TRI-HELIX
DNA AND THREE ADDITIONAL
ARTIFICIAL CHROMOSOME PAIRS





2560/458 ND PHASE 7 INITIATED
SINGULARITY ACHIEVED
WITH CYBORGS'
SECOND UPRISING

2438/336 ND PHASE 6 INITIATED
EXPECTED MUTATION OF
CYBRIDS FROM THE GEN
RELIGION INTRODUCED TO
THE GEN
WAR BREAKS OUT BETWEEN
CITIES – FIRST UPRISING

2376/274 ND PHASE 5 INITIATED
GENESIS CITY AND SPEROS CITY
ESTABLISHED

2102 AD/1 ND PHASE 4 INITIATED WITH
EXTINCTION LEVEL EVENT
NEW DIASPORA (ND) TIMELINE
ESTABLISHED

2797/695 ND PHASE 8 INITIATED
PEACEFUL DIPLOMACY
BETWEEN GEN AND
CYBORGS INTENTIONALLY
THWARTED
THIRD UPRISING



2801/699 ND APHRODITE IX AWAKENS
IN PRESENT
FOURTH UPRISING
THE PRESENT

**2802/700 ND PLANNED PHASE 9
INITIATION
EITHER GEN OR
CYBORGS ELIMINATED,
UNKNOWN WHICH

APHRODITE IX

APHRODITE IX IS
THE MOST UNIQUE OF ALL
THE CHILDREN.

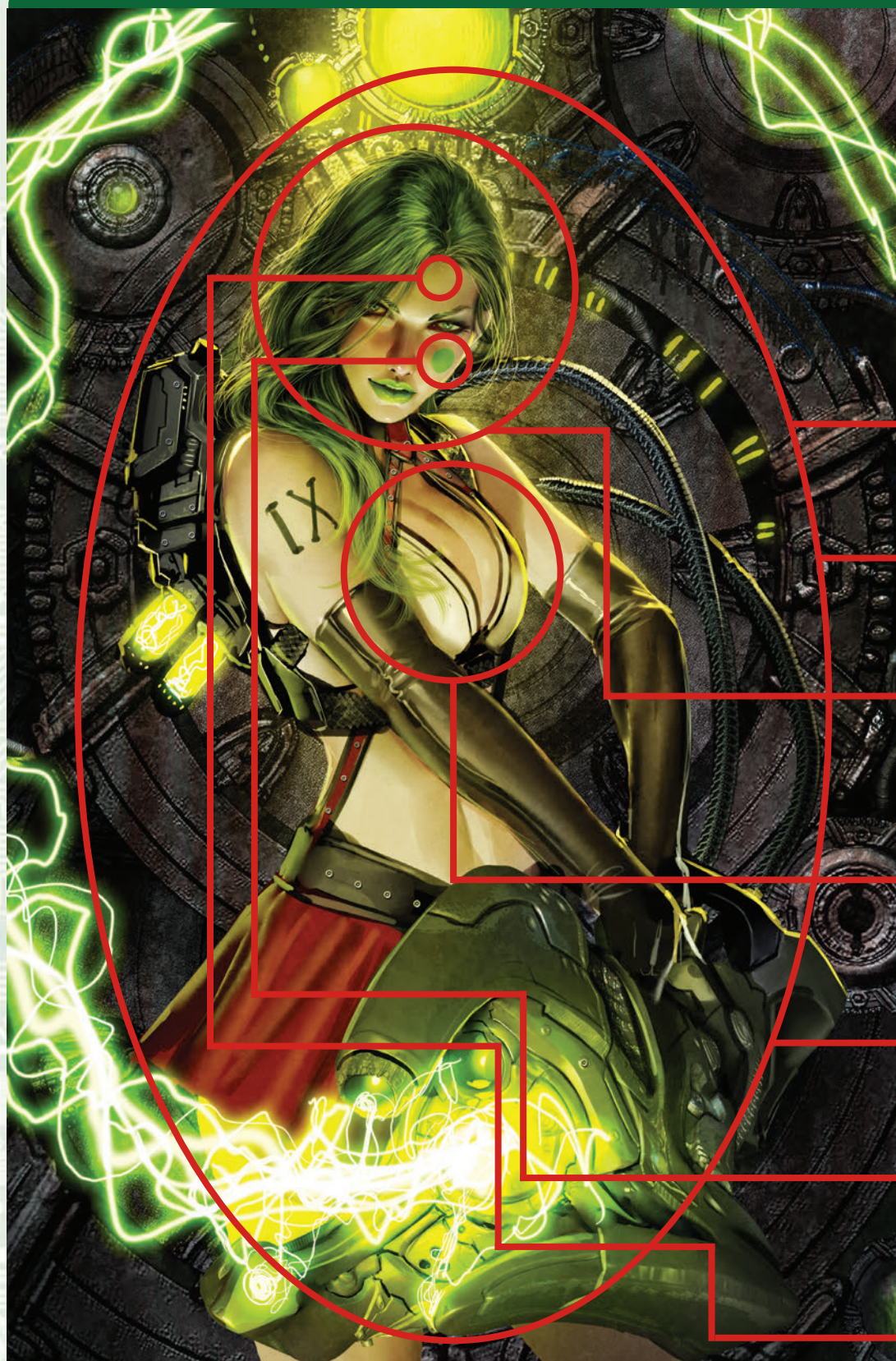
IDENTITY:.....APHRODITE GENERATION IX "TRACKER KILLER"
REAL NAME:.....N/A
SERIAL NUMBER:.....2473561212
BONDED LINE HANDLER:.....BURCH, ROBERT J.
INCEPTION DATE:.....APRIL 4, 2078
HEIGHT:.....1.7 METERS (5'7")
WEIGHT:.....67 KILOGRAMS (147.7 POUNDS)



ENHANCED HUMAN FUNCTIONALITY -- THE NINTH GENERATION IS A 225% IMPROVEMENT OVER THE LAST HUMAN-BASED GENERATION VII.

	Normal Human Male	Aphrodite IX	Aphrodite IX
	Pre- Diaspora		w/ surge
Strength: Bench Press	49.9kg (110 pounds)	110kg (242.5 pounds)	600kg (1323 pounds)
Strength: Deadlift	57kg (126 pounds)	125kg (275.5 pounds)	685 kg (1510 pounds)
Sprinting speed time (100 meters)	15 seconds	11 seconds	7 seconds
Striking Pressure	1.7 Newtons per square Millimeter (250 pounds per square inch)	10.5 Newtons per square Millimeter (1522 pounds per square inch)	25 Newtons per square Millimeter (3626 pounds per square inch)
Resting Heart Rate	80 beats/minute	48 beats/minute	N/A
VO2 Maximum (aerobic capacity)	35 Milliliters per Kilogram-minute	85 ML/(Kg-min)	170 ML/(Kg-min)
Body temperature	37 degrees celsius (98.6 F)	35.8 degrees C (96.5 F)	40 degrees C (104 F)
Lifespan	86 years	170 years	N/A
Radiation resistance	baseline	175%	N/A
Energy Consumption	baseline 100%	72%	150%+restore
Sleep Requirement (optimal)	7.2 hours	5 hours	N/A
G-Force resistance	5 g's	9 g's	N/A
Chromosome Pairs	23	26 (3 artificial)	N/A
DNA	Helix	Tri-Helix	N/A
Neural Pocessing Speed	20 times 10^15th calculations per second	25 times 10^17th calculations per second	40 times 10^17th calculations per second
Temperature Resistance Range	15 to 30 degrees Celsius	(-5 to 55 degrees Celsius)	N/A
Blood Pressure	120/80	90/65	N/A

ADRENO-GYLCALINE SURGE -- UNIQUE TO THIS GENERATION, SHE HAS A FOCUSED ADRENALINE SURGE THAT ALLOWS A MASSIVE SHORT-TERM POWER BURST. CENTRALYNE GLYCOL IS USED AS THE DELIVERY MECHANISM TO SEND ADRENALINE QUICKLY THROUGH HER BLOOD STREAM TO MAXIMIZE AFFECT TO THE ADRENERGIC RECEPTORS.



● **ENHANCEMENTS:**

GENETIC – PHASE 4 INTEGRATION OF THE LATEST CDI GENETICS

TRI-HELIX DNA – APHRODITE IX WAS THE FIRST GENERATION TO HAVE A THIRD TECHNOLOGICAL HELIX INTERWOVEN THAT CONNECTED WITH HER TWO ORGANIC HELIX STRANDS IN HER DNA.

CHROMOSOME PAIRS – HER CELLULAR STRUCTURE INCLUDES THREE ADDITIONAL ARTIFICIAL CHROMOSOME BASE PAIRS: TWO FOR PHYSICAL ENHANCEMENT AND THE THIRD FOR NEURAL.

LIMITATIONS – SLEEP REQUIRED FOR REGENERATION/HEALING/MEMORY ORGANIZATION. PREFERABLE 5 HOURS PER 24-HOUR CYCLE. CAN OPERATE FOR 14 DAYS WITHOUT SLEEP BEFORE EXPERIENCING SHUTDOWN.

WILL CEASE TO FUNCTION WITHOUT FOOD AFTER 75 DAYS, WATER AFTER 5 DAYS

● **APPEARANCE:**

DESIGNED FOR INFILTRATION, SEDUCTION, ESPIONAGE AND COVERT ASSASSINATION. ATHLETIC BUILD, HIGH NORMAL METABOLISM, HIGH FLEXIBILITY, AND ACCELERATED HEALING.

● **SHAPE-SHIFTING:**

SHE CAN SLIGHTLY ALTER HER APPEARANCE, CHANGING HER HAIR COLOR AND CERTAIN FACIAL FEATURES, BUT RELATIVE SIZE (HEIGHT/WEIGHT) REMAINS CONSTANT. GREEN BEAUTY MARK ON FACE IS UNCHANGEABLE.

● **INTERNAL COMPUTER:**

CDI MODEL V. 9. CAPABLE OF INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL LOGIC LEAPS AND UP TO 25×10^{17} TH CALCULATIONS PER SECOND. APHRODITE-SPECIFIC FEATURES INCLUDE ADAPTIVE TRANSLATION, WEAPONS ANALYSIS, STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS, AND INTERACTIVE, PREDICTIVE COMBAT ANALYSIS. FIREARM AND COMPUTATIONAL CAPABILITY PRE-LOADED.

● **SEDUCTION MATRIX:**

IN ADDITION TO A SCIENTIFICALLY-REGIMENTED STANDARD OF PHYSICAL BEAUTY, AND INNATE PSYCHOLOGICAL MANIPULATION OF THE ROMANTIC VARIETY, APHRODITE IX CAN ALSO EMIT SPECIFIC PHEROMONES TO CONFUSE AND DISTRACT TARGETS.

● **STEALTH:**

SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED FOR OPERATING IN FORWARD THEATERS AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES, EITHER COVERTLY OR IN DISGUISE. STEALTH SKILLS ARE UNPARALLELED. HAS THE ABILITY TO STOP HER SCENT TO PREVENT DETECTION.

● **SLAVE MODE:**

OPERATIONAL VIA NEURAL INTERFACE BELOW LEFT OPTIC NERVE. HANDLER MAINTAINS ABSOLUTE REMOTE CONTROL (ONBOARD AND COMBAT SYSTEMS ACCESSIBLE) UP TO TWENTY-MINUTE INTERVALS. WARNING: EXCESSIVE AND IMPROPER USE OF SLAVING PROCEDURES MAY LEAD TO MALFUNCTION.

● **COIN OF SOLOMON:**

DATA LIMITED. ONE OF THE THIRTEEN ARTIFACTS. EMBEDDED WITHIN HER NEUROLOGICAL TISSUE. NO KNOWN ADVANTAGE OR DISADVANTAGE TO ITS LOCATION.

SANCTUARIES

THE SANCTUARIES ARE
NEARLY ALL ONLINE. WE ARE
MERE MONTHS FROM FINAL
PHASE INITIATION.

PURPOSE:

CENTRAL TO THE APHRODITE PROTOCOL AND FINAL
PHASE (NINE). SANCTUARY FACILITIES ENSURE
CONTINUITY, SUBMISSION, AND CONTROL.
SANCTUARIES CONTAIN APPROVED DATABASES,
INDESTRUCTIBLE STASIS PODS, AND NUMEROUS
CDI AMENITIES.

DESIGNATIONS (KNOWN BY SANCTUARY VI)

- II APOLLO XV
- IV ARTEMIS IX
- VI APHRODITE XV
- IX ARES XV
- X APHRODITE IX





TERRESTRIAL SANCTUARIES:

THERE ARE SIX SANCTUARIES LOCATED ON TERRESTRIAL EARTH, EACH FOCUSED ON A DIFFERENT MODEL/GENERATION. SANCTUARIES IX AND X ARE CONNECTED AND ACT AS THE CENTRAL HUB ON THE SURFACE. THEY ARE INTENTIONAL AUXILIARY FACILITIES OF MILLENNIUM CITY.

ORBITAL SANCTUARIES:

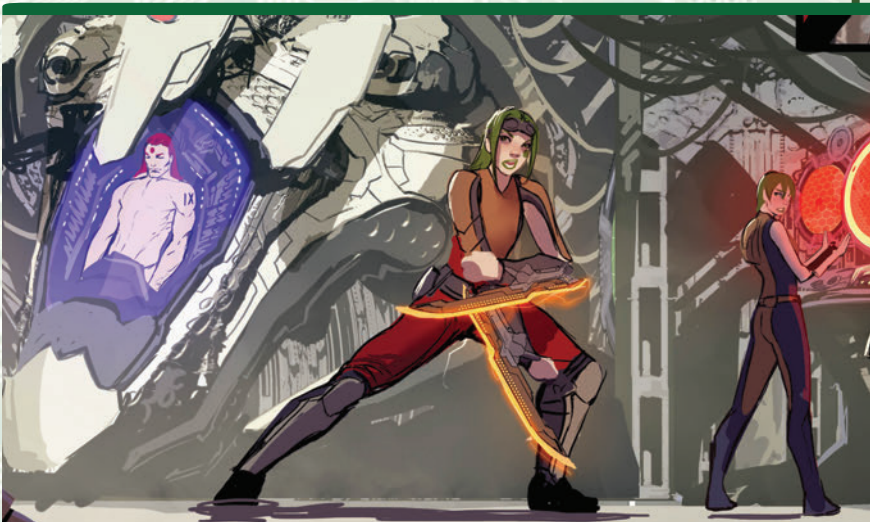
SIX ADDITIONAL SATELLITE MODEL SANCTUARIES RESIDE IN CONSTANT GEOSTATIONARY ORBIT AROUND THE PLANET. THESE SATELLITES MAINTAIN A LIMITED COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK AND EXTRANET, ALTHOUGH EARTH'S CURRENT ATMOSPHERE CONTAINS ALMOST 65% PARTICULATES, WHICH LIMITS DATA TRANSFER EFFICIENCY.

FAILSAFE POLICIES:

WHILE SOME TERRESTRIAL SANCTUARY FACILITIES MAY HAVE BEEN RENDERED INACCESSIBLE DUE TO ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS AND TECTONIC DRIFT, UNIQUELY SUPPORTIVE ARCHITECTURE AND HIGH-TECH MATERIALS MAKE THEIR COMPLETE DESTRUCTION EXTREMELY UNLIKELY, AS THEY WERE ENGINEERED TO SURVIVE AN EXTINCTION LEVEL EVENT.

STASIS CHAMBERS:

ALL SANCTUARY FACILITIES FEATURE SEVERAL CDI STASIS CHAMBERS, CAPABLE OF PRESERVING COMATOSE ORGANIC LIFE FOR CENTURIES.



ROBERT J. BURCH

BURCH WAS HELPFUL IN CORRALING APHRODITE IX BEFORE THE DIASPORA, BUT HE'S BECOME A LECHEROUS FOOL. HE HAS SOME FINAL USES BEFORE WE LET HER KILL HIM.

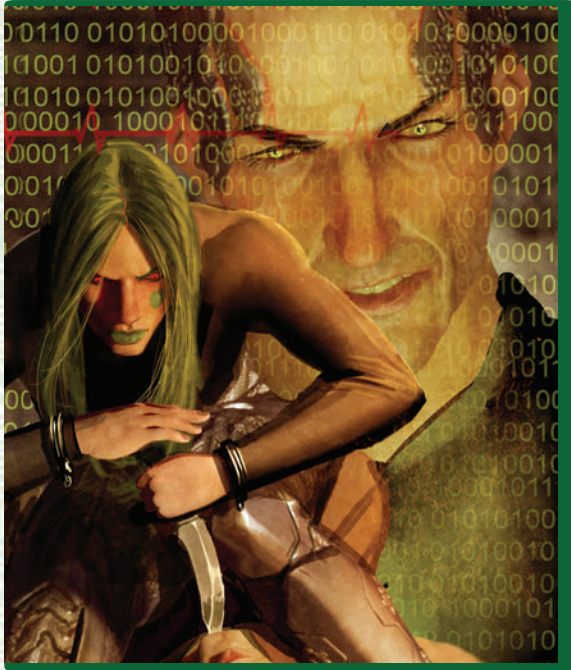
IDENTITY:.....BURCH, ROBERT J.

CDI ID NUMBER:....3583561212

OCCUPATION:.....TECHNICIAN/
INSTRUCTOR/
CODE ENGINEER

TRACKER-KILLER HANDLER:

AUTHOR OF THE APHRODITE SLAVING SOFTWARE. DNA – LINKED TO SPECIAL MODEL APHRODITE IX 2473561212 VIA INTERNAL NEURAL INTERFACE.



PSYCHOLOGICAL PROFILE:

SUBJECT BURCH DISPLAYS TEXTBOOK EXAMPLES OF NARCISSISM AND AN ALMOST ADOLESCENT ATTITUDE OF OBJECTIFICATION TOWARDS FEMALES. MILD SOCIOPATHIC TENDENCIES.

CYBERNETIC ENHANCEMENTS:

SPEROS CITY CYBERNETICS HAVE REPLACED 40 – 60% OF HIS BASE ORGANIC PARTS. ADDITIONAL NEURAL AND OPTICAL ENHANCEMENTS ALLOW FOR ADJUSTED LIFE IN CURRENT CLIMATE. THE CYBORGS ALSO IMPLANTED A FAILSAFE DESTRUCTIVE DEVICE TO KEEP HIM IN LINE.

STATUS:

ALTHOUGH INSTRUMENTAL TO THE PROGRAM, SUBJECT BURCH IS DISPOSABLE. HIS CONTROL IS NOT REQUIRED FOR OBJECTIVE.





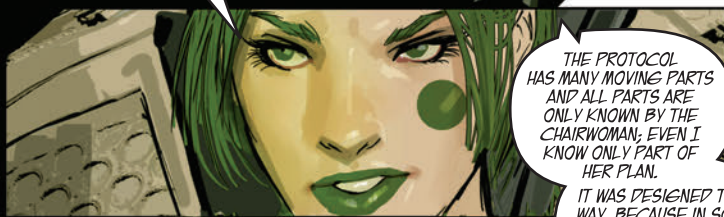
YOU WANT
HER TO KILL
BURCH?

YES. IF SHE
KILLS HIM IT WILL
SOLIDIFY OUR
CONTROL.

SHE NEEDS TO
RETAIN A SEMBLANCE
OF FREE WILL...
A HUMAN
WEAKNESS.



AS YOU CAN SEE, MY FILES
FROM SANCTUARY VI ARE
INCOMPLETE. HAVING FULL ACCESS
WOULD AID IN MY ABILITY TO
SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE THE
OBJECTIVE.



THE PROTOCOL
HAS MANY MOVING PARTS
AND ALL PARTS ARE
ONLY KNOWN BY THE
CHAIRWOMAN; EVEN I
KNOW ONLY PART OF
HER PLAN.

IT WAS DESIGNED THAT
WAY, BECAUSE IN SOME
CASES HAVING GREATER
KNOWLEDGE WOULD
SKEW THE INTENDED
RESULTS.

LAYING OUT A
FRAMEWORK TO
CHANGE THE WORLD
OVER 900 YEARS
ISN'T EASY.



MILLENNIUM CITY

EVERYTHING
STARTED WITH MILLENNIUM
CITY.

CYBERDATA INDUSTRIES FIRST ESTABLISHED OPERATIONS IN PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA IN 2002. PRIOR TO CONTROL, THE CITY WAS A HUMAN WASTE REFUSE, RIDDEN WITH CRIME AND A FAILING ECONOMY.

WITHIN A DECADE, INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS FROM CDI REVAMPED THE CITY'S ECONOMICS AND TRANSFORMED IT FROM A STATE OF DEPRESSION INTO THE MOST PROSPEROUS METROPOLIS IN THE WORLD. THEY RENAMED IT MILLENNIUM CITY TO HERALD ITS REBIRTH.



STATE OF THE ART SECURITY FORCES:

CDI-TRAINED AND DESIGNED SHOC TROOPERS PATROL THE STREETS AT REGULAR INTERVALS. CRIME IS AT A HISTORIC LOW – AS IS UNEMPLOYMENT.

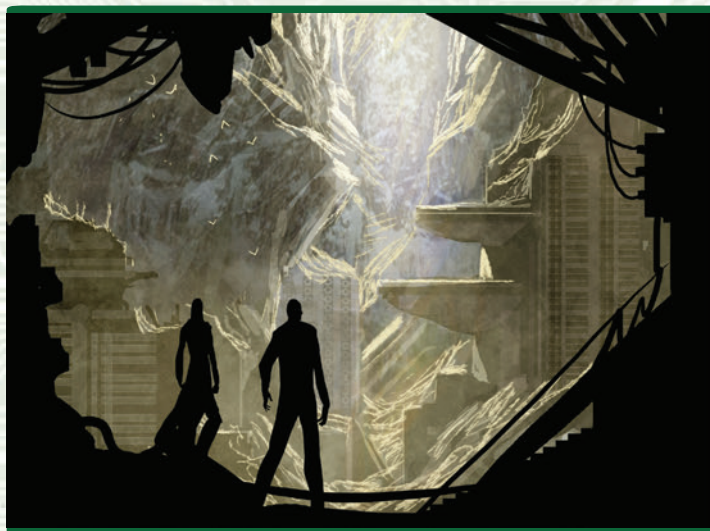


CITY OF THE FUTURE:

WITH THE LATEST TECHNOLOGIES, SUSTAINABLE POWER SOURCES, AND THE MOST SOPHISTICATED INFRASTRUCTURE EVER BUILT, MILLENNIUM CITY WAS DESIGNED TO LAST FOR THE NEXT 1000 YEARS AND BEYOND.



ENVIRONMENTAL DECAY:
DESPITE PROTECTIVE MEASURES AND ADVANCED PRESERVATION METHODS, SOME LIMITED DETRIMENT TO MILLENNIUM CITY'S INFRASTRUCTURE WAS ANTICIPATED.



EXCAVATION EFFORTS:

GIVEN THE SUCCESS OF ROBERT BURCH'S WORK WITH APHRODITE IX, THE CYBORGS HAVE LAUNCHED FULL-SCALE EXCAVATION ATTEMPTS INTO THE CITY.

THE GEN

EXPECTATIONS
ARE THE GEN WILL DOMINATE THE
CYBORGES, BUT IT GOES BACK
AND FORTH.

IN PHASE 4, HUMANS WERE DRAMATICALLY ALTERED GENETICALLY, AND HAVE BEEN INCREASINGLY DIVERSIFIED IN FAVOR OF THE NEW ENVIRONMENT OVER THEIR CENTURIES AS A PEOPLE. THERE WERE OFFSHOOTS OF HUMANS THAT MUTATED DRAMATICALLY, FREQUENTLY SPLICED WITH SOME ANIMAL DNA IN AN ATTEMPT TO BREED IN SPECIAL ABILITIES. THESE VARIANTS ARE KNOWN AS CYBRIDS AND ARE SHUNNED BY THE NORMAL GEN.



GENESIS CITY

CONSTRUCTED IN 2376, GENESIS CITY WAS BUILT TO ESTABLISH THE LINEAGE OF GENETICALLY ENHANCED PERSONNEL AS PART OF PHASE 4 OF THE PROTOCOL.

THE CITY PROVIDES EXCELLENT NATURAL DEFENSE FROM GROUND FORCES, AS IT HAS NO GROUND ENTRANCES. DESIGNED WITH THE GENETICALLY ENHANCED WINGED CREATURES IN MIND, THE SCIENTISTS OF GENESIS CITY BREED THEM FOR TRANSPORT.

HISTORY

THE GEN ARE RULED BY A THEOCRATIC MONARCHY PASSED DOWN THROUGH HEREDITARY TITLE. WOMEN ARE STRONG IN THEIR SOCIETY, THEY HAVE TO BE TO SURVIVE, BUT THEIR SOCIETY LEANS TOWARDS A PATRIARCHAL STRUCTURE.

OVER THE CENTURIES AND WITH THE VARIATIONS IN THE GEN'S GENETICS, TRIBAL STRUCTURES EMERGED. EACH HAS THEIR OWN DISTINCT CULTURE, BUT ALL SWEAR FEALTY TO THE HIGH KING AND QUEEN.

HIGH KING MARCUS DRAGOVITCH

CURRENT HIGH KING MARCUS DRAGOVITCH WAS ENGAGED TO LINA SWIFTHAVEN, THE DAUGHTER OF A LEADING TRIBAL ELDER. THIS MARRIAGE WAS INTENDED TO SOLIDIFY THE UNITY OF THE TRIBES. ALTHOUGH HER DEATH CAUSED SOME TEMPORARY UPHEAVAL, MARCUS' CONVERSION TO A RADICALIZED VERSION OF THEIR STATE RELIGION CONSOLIDATED THEIR ALLIANCE.

HIGH KING MARCUS' DRAGOVITCH IS THE HONORIFIC "SWORD OF HIS PEOPLE" AND SERVES AS BOTH THE POLITICAL AND SPIRITUAL LEADER OF THE GEN. HE IS A SKILLED WARRIOR, BUT LIMITED IN INTELLECT AND DIPLOMACY.



DRAKES

AS PART OF THEIR ADVANCEMENTS IN GENETICS AND BREEDING, THE GEN HAVE DEVELOPED FLYING DRAKES. DRAKES SERVE AS THE MAIN SOURCE OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE GEN IN AND OUT OF BATTLE. WHILE THE DRAKES ARE ESSENTIALLY LITTLE MORE THAN MOUNTS, THEIR RIDERS VIEW THEM ALMOST AS EQUALS.

DRAKES ARE BRED AND BONDED TO SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES, AND A GOOD DEAL OF TIME AND TRAINING FOR BOTH DRAKE AND RIDER ARE REQUIRED BEFORE A DRAKE CAN BE PROPERLY RIDDEN. THE DRAKES ALSO POSSESS AN ALMOST EXTRASENSORY JUDGE OF CHARACTER, AND WILL ONLY CARRY THOSE THEY TRUST.

ALTHOUGH THE DRAKES ARE THE GEN'S PRIMARY BROOD, THEY ARE ABLE TO CREATE MANY OTHER TYPES OF CREATURES AND DEVELOP NEW ONES ALL THE TIME.



RELIGION

RELIGION DOMINATES THE CULTURE OF THE GEN. POLITICAL LEADERS ARE ALSO SPIRITUAL LEADERS, AND PRIESTS AND PRIESTESSES ARE HELD IN HIGH ESTEEM. THEIR RELIGION IS INTRICATE, INVOLVING A DUALISTIC NOTION OF THE DIVINE AS SIMULTANEOUSLY MALE AND FEMALE IN VARYING TEXTS OF A QUASI-HISTORICAL NATURE.

WHILE RELIGION IS PREVALENT IN THE GEN'S CULTURE, FEW OF THEIR PEOPLE HOLD PASSIONATE FAITH. MARCUS'S RECENT CONVERSION TO ZEALOTRY, HOWEVER, HAS SPARKED A VIOLENT RELIGIOUS REVIVAL IN THE PEOPLE.

THE CYBORGS

THE CYBORGS OF SPEROS CITY HAVE CARRIED ON THE TORCH OF HUMAN-TECHNOLOGICAL SINGULARITY – AS FAR AS THE PROTOCOL ALLOWS. THEIR MYRIAD CYBERNETIC ENHANCEMENTS ALLOW THEM TO BREATHE IN VARIED CLIMATES, INTERFACE WITH ALL MANNER OF TECHNOLOGY, AND GRANT THEM SUPERHUMAN SENSORY PERCEPTION AND PHYSICAL ACUMEN.

THE CYBORGS PLACE EXTREME VALUE ON THEIR OWN LIVES, INSISTING ON HEAVY RISK ASSESSMENT BEFORE ENGAGING IN ANY DANGEROUS ACTIVITIES. MANY OF



THEM ARE FUNCTIONALLY IMMORTAL – SUPPLEMENTING ORGANIC PARTS WITH CYBERNETIC AS NECESSARY. BECAUSE OF THIS, FEW OF THEM APPEAR TO HAVE AGED PAST 40, THOUGH MOST ARE WELL OVER A CENTURY OLD.



SPEROS CITY

DIVIDED INTO SECTORS AND FILLED WITH THE MOST STATE OF THE ART INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE WORLD, SPEROS CITY IS THE PINNACLE OF HUMAN TECHNOLOGICAL ACHIEVEMENT. ITS CITIZENS RESIDE IN A HIGHLY REGULATED, SINGLE-PARTY TOTALITARIAN STATE – REBELLION AND CRIME ARE VIRTUALLY NONEXISTENT.

ALBEIT SLOWLY, ITS POPULATION IS INCREASING IN NUMBER – VARIOUS ATTEMPTS TO COLONIZE LUNAR BODIES AND EXTRATERRESTRIAL LOCATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE, THOUGH ALL WERE THWARTED BY THE GEN.

THE CITY IS RINGED WITH AGRICULTURAL CENTERS AND ADVANCED GREENHOUSES, WHICH PROVIDE NECESSARY LAND AND RESOURCES IN THE OTHERWISE BARREN WASTELAND. THEY PROVIDE READY TARGETS FOR THE CITY'S ENEMIES, HOWEVER.



GOVERNMENT

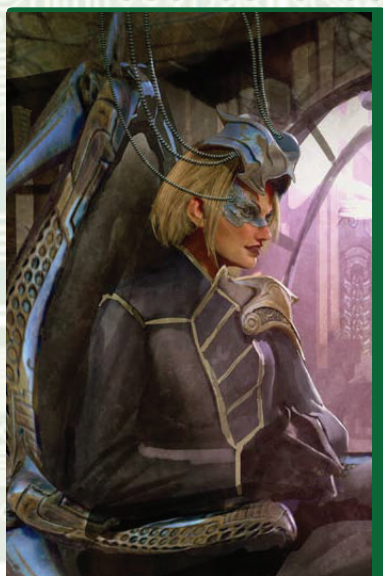


SPEROS CITY IS GOVERNED BY A COUNCIL OF ITS MOST LONG-LIVED AND CAPABLE CITIZENS. A MAJORITY COUNCIL VOTE IS REQUIRED FOR MAJOR GOVERNMENTAL ACTIONS. COUNCIL SEATS ARE HIGHLY PRIZED AMONG SPEROS CITIZENS, AS A SPOT ON THE COUNCIL IS ESSENTIALLY A GUARANTEE OF IMMORTALITY.

A CAREER MILITARY MAN, EXECUTOR CHRONOS WAS COMMITTED TO ELIMINATING THE GEN ONCE-AND-FOR-ALL. HIS AGGRESSIVE CAMPAIGNS LED TO INTENSE SKIRMISHES BETWEEN THE TWO FACTIONS, AND THE SPEROS CITY FORCES WERE DEFEATED. AS PUNISHMENT FOR HIS FAILURE, CHRONOS WAS PLACED IN A NEURAL ISOLATION CHAMBER.



FORMER ASSISTANT AND SUCCESSOR TO CHRONOS, JEZEBEL NOW SERVES AS THE EXECUTOR OF SPEROS CITY, ENACTING THE WILL OF THE COUNCIL AND PREPARING HER PEOPLE FOR WAR AGAINST THE GEN.



DEVELOPMENT

CHILDREN ARE FORGED IN BIRTH UNITS AS DESIRED, AND OUTFITTED WITH CYBERNETIC ENHANCEMENTS THAT ENCOURAGE RAPID NEUROLOGICAL AND PHYSIOLOGICAL GROWTH.





SCIENCE CLASS: HIDDEN FILES

This book took me a lot longer to finish than I was expecting it to. The main reason was once I started looking into the specific details of human enhancement from both cybernetic and genetics, I quickly became obsessed with it. I started extrapolating based on a current model of what we, as simple organic human beings, are able to achieve and then used that as a baseline for reasonable enhancements. I doubt many people go through this when they're creating super-heroes, but since I sort of personally don't like unrealistic heroes, I wanted to set Aphrodite up as a real possibility for the future. Might seem far-fetched, but we've done more to evolve ourselves over the past 20 years than hundreds of thousands of years of natural selection.

So how do you start determining an enhanced human's capabilities? Well, I went back to my D&D roots and started thinking about the basics - strength, intelligence, wisdom, dexterity, constitution, and charisma, and went from there. Keep in mind that each of these categories has thousands of subcategories, and research done on all of them. I'm going to hit super broad strokes.

BODY STRENGTH

What determines your body strength? We currently calculate this based on standards in weightlifting exercises, like bench press and deadlift. I am actually comparing Aphrodite to a human man as a baseline instead of a woman, so her abilities are even more extraordinary on the strength front. Physical strength is defined as "the capability of a man or woman to exert force on a physical object by using muscles." How we harness muscle use and the fibers within the muscles also have a significant affect. Humans are about 15% stronger on average than we were 100 years ago. We're growing taller (and fatter).

<http://goo.gl/Y1qITh>

STRIKING FORCE

How much force do you hit someone with? We see these Karate experts punching through concrete blocks, etc. A lot of this has to do with where you hit something and with what, but the idea for Aphrodite is how hard can she punch and kick people. The current human striking force parameters are fairly limiting, but with cybernetic enhancements - from adding a heavy tensile strength metal fiber in your hand, to increasing the torque abilities of your muscles - they could open it up considerably.



<http://goo.gl/bSXrSq>

PUNCH/STRIKING SPEED

The average person can achieve a punch at about 24kmh (15mph), which is about 6.7 meters per second or 22 feet per second, with the average striking distance at about 1 meter (roughly 3 feet). It takes about 1/7th of a second for a normal person to punch someone else. How much faster can this be? Takes about 1/100th of a second for a bullet to strike someone at the same distance, so we know that's achievable with explosive chemical compounds. We can use that as a baseline to see what might be achievable.

<http://goo.gl/iJWA51>
<http://goo.gl/IFPqd2>

BONE STRENGTH

“Ounce for ounce, bone is stronger than steel, since a bar of steel of comparable size would weigh four or five times as much. A cubic inch of bone can in principle bear a load of 19,000 lbs. (8,626 kg) or more — roughly the weight of five standard pickup trucks — making it about four times as strong as concrete.”

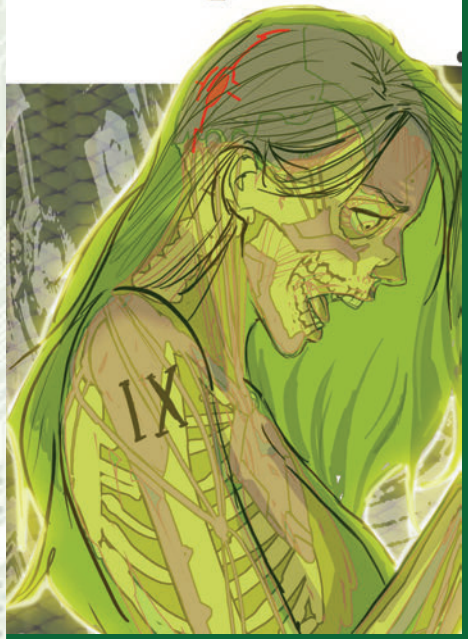
<http://goo.gl/grK6td>

I round things for ease, but if you want to be precise, check out this invaluable resource for conversion:

<http://goo.gl/1yTDY>

Fastest martial arts punch:

<http://goo.gl/SGne1r>



FAST AND SLOW TWITCH MUSCLE FIBERS

If you've ever studied how our muscles work, you know there are both slow and fast twitch fibers in them, and they have different purposes. Slow are for endurance and are longer; fast are for speed/sprinting and are shorter. Any successful genetic adaptation for strength/speed enhancement would have to factor this in.

MENTAL STRENGTH/PROCESSING SPEED

How fast does your brain work? Ultimately this is how fast your neurons respond. “In almost all studies of a neuron's response to a stimulus, the response is sampled over long time periods, usually around 300 to 500 milliseconds (ms).” That last quote is from the following link, which is worth a read. How do you increase processing speed? Well, now we're getting into the ideas of the singularity.

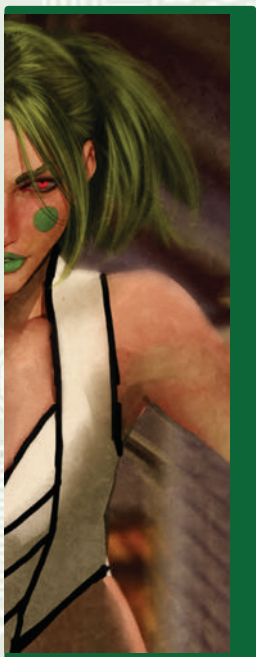
From second link below:

“In a nutshell, the Technological Singularity is a term used to describe the theoretical moment in time when artificial intelligence matches and then exceeds human intelligence. The term was popularized by sci-fi writer Vernor Vinge, but full credit goes to the mathematician John von Neumann, who spoke of “ever accelerating progress of technology and changes in the mode of human life, which gives the appearance of approaching some essential singularity in the history of the race beyond which human affairs, as we know them, could not continue.”

<http://goo.gl/LGvjpl>

<http://goo.gl/gr5xMO>

<http://goo.gl/ZnmmU>



ADRENERGIC RECEPTORS

Wikipedia has a really good breakdown of what this is - actually better than most of the educational sites I use for research. The bottom line is these are how adrenaline gets the nervous system to go into overdrive, and allows normal people to lift 3500 pound cars. This "adrenaline model" is what I've based Aphrodite IX's surge abilities on. She has a limited boost that gives her dramatic increases in speed and strength, but it wears her out quickly. If you've ever heard the term "seeing red," or had enhanced vision because of fear, you know what this is like. I think this is why some people who fight like to fight - they get off on that surge of adrenaline you get when you go into battle mode.

<http://goo.gl/N4C2d>

<http://goo.gl/vjwch>

ADRENO-GLYCALINE SURGE

This is what we call fake, made-up science to suit the story, heh. No such thing actually exists, but the idea is that this is how her enhanced body uses its adrenaline surge.

<http://goo.gl/cTzB9j>

BLOOD TYPE

I did some research to see if there was a specific blood type that would be stronger. The research is unclear, but I found this one wiki answer, from the link below, that said O neg, so I went with that. I added artificial white blood cells, as I think that would make sense in enhancing her immune system as well.

<http://goo.gl/j7pJoP>

VO2 MAX

What the upper limit to how fast the body can move and use oxygen through the blood stream is the quick answer of what VO2 Max is. The higher this limit, the more endurance someone will have. I went on and on about this in a previous Think Tank Science Class, so I'm just using broad strokes here.

<http://goo.gl/LAeyU>



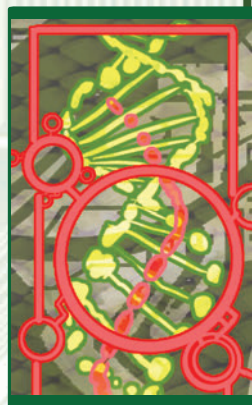
EXTRA ARTIFICIAL CHROMOSOMES

Now this is an area that I lost half a day reading about. Humans have 23 pairs of chromosomes. The notion that more pairs equals better organisms isn't really true, as earthworms have more chromosome pairs than we do. And take Down's Syndrome, which is a debilitating genetic variation, that is caused from humans having an extra chromosome. However, adding some artificial cybernetic chromosomes in utero to give humans enhanced abilities is not only possible...but almost possible now! Don't believe me? Read this link:

<http://goo.gl/v6CSQJ>



There are Tri-Helix DNA patterns now. When I first wrote that Aphrodite had a tri-helix DNA, and that one strand was cybernetically enhanced, I hadn't realized that the artificial cybernetic chromosomes would actually fit better for enhancing abilities. DNA is an interesting thing. It's actually (in my opinion that I stole from a couple geneticists) a flimsy design. The easiest way to think of DNA is like it's a long string of X-mas lights woven around another long string of X-mas lights, where there are four colors, and they match up like red-white and blue-yellow. How those 4 colors interact basically determines everything about you. The insanely pedestrian version of genetic variation is to imagine that some of those lights' sizes are changed, or their orders are switched around to change things up. One revelation of the second Aphrodite IX arc is that one of their goals is to create a true quad-helix.



<http://goo.gl/Pa9y6l>

METRIC SYSTEM

Why do I convert everything to the metric system? Because it's stupid that the US hasn't already accepted the world standard system. We're too lazy here to bother trying to learn it, which makes us look stupid to the rest of the world. My hope is that in a rebuilt post-apocalyptic world, we finally have a worldwide universal standard for the few that are left.

RESTING HEART RATE

A resting heart rate is simply how many heartbeats there are a minute when you're resting. People with strong endurances and who are healthier tend to have lower resting heart rates.

<http://goo.gl/ioSBe>
<http://goo.gl/Y0HQj8>

BLOOD PRESSURE

Blood pressure measures the pressure in your arteries during the pumping and resting phases of each heartbeat. The top number represents the degree of pressure your heart generates when pumping blood through your arteries, while the bottom number indicates the amount of pressure in your arteries between beats.

Normal blood pressure is equal to or lower than 120/80 based on current guidelines, although many health experts say 115/75 is ideal. More athletic people have lower blood pressures.

<http://goo.gl/5IMxdW>

That's all for now!

Matt Hawkins

Please pester me on any of my feeds.....or Stjepan on his!

@topcowmatt

<https://www.facebook.com/Selfloathingnarcissist>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Aphrodite-IX/452004668191047>

<https://plus.google.com/+topcow>

@stjepansejic

<http://nebezial.deviantart.com/>

G-FORCE RESISTANCE

How much force can the body withstand from acceleration? Or, how fast would we have to be going before our body would simply fly apart on its own? More good things to know when creating super soldiers who need to fight in varying environments.

<http://goo.gl/rdMPFo>

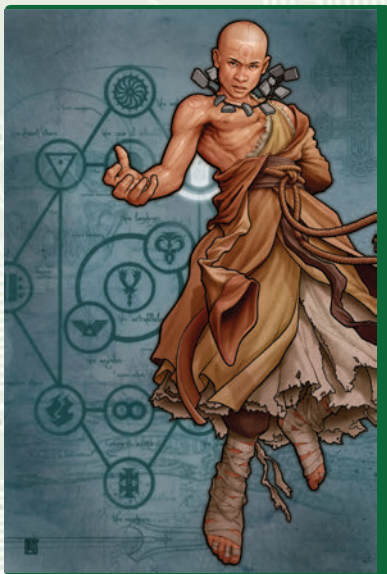
TEMPERATURE VARIATION

Also important for creating super soldiers is knowing what are the temperature conditions in which they can fight. It makes sense that enhanced soldiers would be able to operate in broader environments. You could create different types of people too - ones that are designed to operate in arctic environments, and ones who operate in severe desert ones.

<http://goo.gl/81J9pB>

THE 13 ARTIFACTS

Together, they form the mechanism through which the Universe itself is written and rewritten - mystical objects beyond the manipulation of even the most technologically advanced. On their own, however, each of the 13 Artifacts can bestow upon ordinary human beings extreme abilities, which for years has placed their bearers on the watchlist of the Aphrodite Protocol.



THE THIRTEENTH ARTIFACT

Designed to bring the 13 Artifacts and their bearers together, or prevent them from ever meeting, the Thirteenth Artifact has always presented a conundrum. Capable of storing and releasing great evil, the Thirteenth Artifact can keep the world in balance -- or plunge it into chaos.

THE EMBER STONE

The opposite of the Glacier Stone, The Ember Stone represents destruction and chaos, and gives its bearer tremendous fiery abilities – attracting the attention of Artifact-hunters and demons alike. Its wielder was recruited by Aphrodite IV, before the initiation of the Protocol's timeline.



THE GLACIER STONE

Together with its opposite, the Ember Stone, the Glacier Stone is an Artifact representing the balance of power in the world. By granting its wielder powers of ice, the Glacier Stone represents creation and order. Its wielder sided against Aphrodite IV, before the initiation of the Protocol's timeline.

PANDORA'S BOX

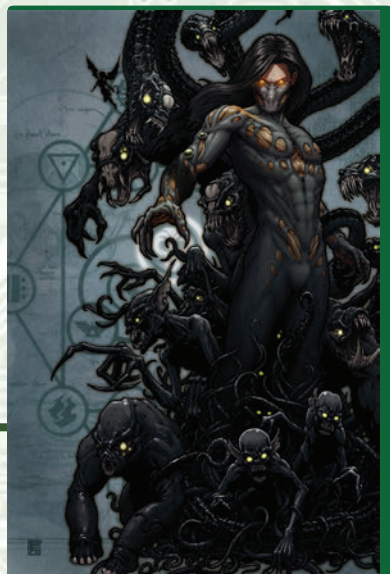
When Aphrodite IV embarked on a covert mission to collect the Artifacts, gathering Pandora's Box was one of her first tasks. A bridge between the Glacier and Ember Stones, Pandora's Box can cancel their effects, but at the cost of causing those near it to go mad with bloodlust.





THE ANGELUS

Granting its host command of an entire army and holy power beyond measure, the Angelus is a primal force representing purity and absolute order. While the Angelus itself has not been seen on earth in centuries, it plays an important part in the religion of Marcus' people, the Gen, by representing the female side of their deity.



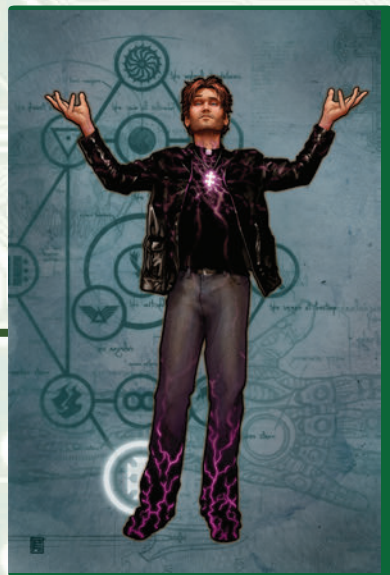
THE DARKNESS

A cosmic force in total opposition to the Angelus, the Darkness embodies the entropic consequences of creation. Its bearer can summon and create beings of pure darkness, imbued with his wickedness. A distinctly male entity, "the Darkness" is referenced frequently in the religion of the Gen. Like its holy counterpart, the Darkness has not been seen on earth in hundreds of years.



THE WITCHBLADE

Of all the Artifacts, none more than the Witchblade embody the notion of Balance. Just as the Gen's religion considers God to be both male and female, the Witchblade is a male Artifact that always requires a female host. Granting its wielder preternatural strength and armor, the Witchblade always presents the responsibility of maintaining the balance of power between Earth's supernatural forces.



THE RAPTURE

In addition to a powerful suit of brimstone armor, the Rapture also comes with a unique gift: the ability to visit Hell. Simultaneously confirming and debunking numerous religions simply by the nature of its existence, bearers of the Rapture can even ferry souls to and from Hell, on a whim.

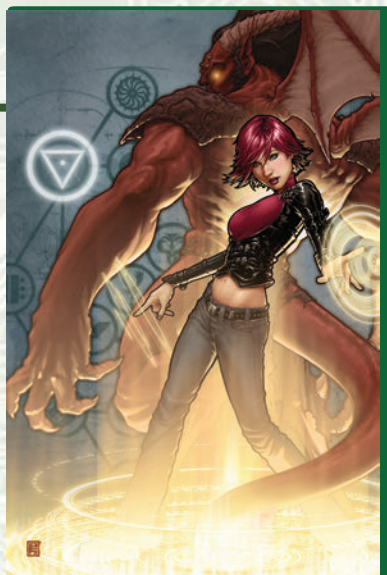


THE SPEAR OF DESTINY

The blade that pierced the side of Jesus Christ, wielded by His female descendents, the Magdalenas, the Spear of Destiny bestows upon its bearer the foresight and power necessary to defeat demons and creatures of dark magic. The Artifact has existed since the dawn of man, but what form it took before being made into a spear is long-forgotten knowledge.

THE HEART STONE

Humans innately fear death, and grieve those that have passed. That alone makes the Heart Stone valuable. Those who possess it can interact with the spirits of the dead, and can even help forestall the inevitable.

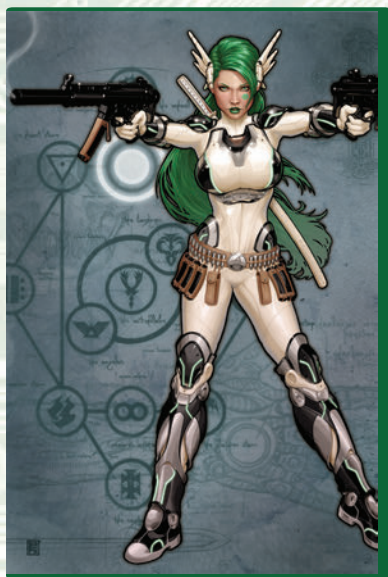
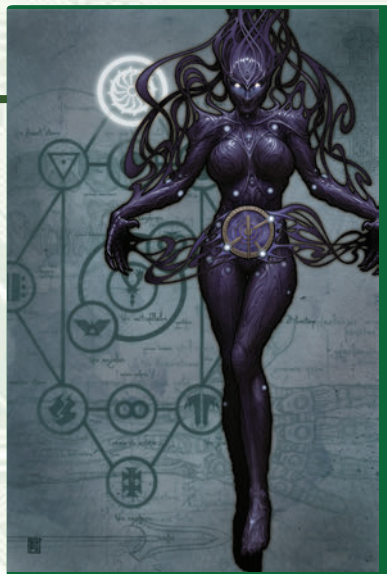


THE BLOOD SWORD

The Blood Sword is one of the simplest Artifacts to understand – as its wielder spills more blood, it grants its wielder more power. Its bearers are stronger and faster than almost any other humans, but at the cost of succumbing to their own inner violence.

THE WHEEL OF SHADOWS

One of the least understood Artifacts, the Wheel of Shadows grants its bearer control over the effects and passage of time. Given its mysterious nature, this Artifact's bearer could have survived well into Aphrodite IX's future, if they played their cards right.



THE COIN OF SOLOMON

Hammered into a coin by the wise Biblical King Solomon, this Artifact grants its bearer huge leaps of intellectual insight. Its destiny, more than any other, has been entwined with the Aphrodite Protocol; it was embedded in the core of Aphrodite IV and currently resides in Aphrodite IX's brain. However, the relationship between the Coin and the Aphrodite models may be more causal than any of them know – even with its power in their hands.



NEXT ISSUE

APHRODITE

IX

#8

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